

P24671.A03

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

*Please replace paragraph [0001] of the specification with the following amended paragraph [0001]:*

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/189,473 filed July 8, 2002, now US patent 6,688,837, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/464,445 filed December 16, 1999, now US patent 6,435,806, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of Swiss Patent Application No. 2498/98 dated December 17, 1998 and Swiss Patent Application No. 1589/99 dated August 31, 1999. The disclosures of each of these documents are expressly incorporated by reference herein in their entireties.